Distr.
GENERAL

IDB.12/4
17 March 1994

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Industrial Development Board

Twelfth session
Vienna, 9-13 May 1994
Item 7 of the provisional agenda

UNIDO'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE SYSTEM-WIDE ACTION PLAN ON DRUG ABUSE CONTROL

Report by the Secretariat

Summary

In response to Industrial Development Board decision IDB.11/Dec.7, reports on UNIDO activities relating to the System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control.

CONTENTS

	Paragraphs	Page
Introduction	1	1
Chapter		
I. THE SCOPE OF THE UNIDO CONTRIBUTION	2 - 5	1
II. CURRENT OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES	6 - 9	2
III. ACTION REQUIRED OF THE BOARD	10	2
Annex: System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control: Agency-Specific Implementation Plan for 1994. Agency: United Nations Industrial Development Organization		3

Introduction

1. In its decision IDB.11/Dec.7 the Industrial Development Board recalled the relevant provisions of the United Nations General Assembly resolutions 44/141, 45/179 and 47/100 concerning the System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control and, in conformity with resolution 47/100, requested the Director-General to designate an agenda item for the Board to consider UNIDO's contribution to the System-Wide Action Plan and to ensure that activities relating to drug abuse control be reflected in the relevant programmes. The present document reports on UNIDO's contribution to the System-Wide Action Plan and other aspects of Board decision IDB.11/Dec.7.

I. THE SCOPE OF THE UNIDO CONTRIBUTION

2. UNIDO participation in the system-wide effort to reduce drug abuse and illicit trafficking preceded the adoption of the Global Programme of Action by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session, primarily in the form of projects aimed at utilizing narcotic plants in the pharmaceutical and fine chemical industries, such as the conversion of opium alkaloids into recognized pharmaceutical products. In the wake of stepped-up international efforts, including the establishment and updating of the System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control, the UNIDO contribution broadened to cover other areas, including crop substitution.

3. The limits with respect to crop substitution to reduce or eliminate illicit drug cultivation have become clear in recent years owing to the lack of incentive offered by low incomes associated with many alternative crops. The concept, therefore, has been widened to include investment in infrastructure and in the development of high value added, processed agro-industrial products that could possibly generate higher and regular income. The UNIDO approach therefore focuses its activities on an integrated agro-industrial development approach that implies a full vertical integration of farmers, processors and local and international markets. In fact, priority has been given to the identification of market opportunities that could be exploited through the creation of competitive agro-industrial complexes.

4. In its decision IDB.11/Dec.7 the Board also urged the Director-General to seek access to additional voluntary funding, including resources from the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), for the implementation of the

V.94 21189 6978E

Distr.: 24 March 1994

G

System-Wide Action Plan activities of UNIDO. As can be seen in chapter II of the present report, financing has stemmed from a variety of sources, although a trend may develop towards more project financing from UNDCP. In view of the importance attached to international efforts to curb drug abuse, interested Member States are urged to consider the provision of voluntary contributions to strengthen the capacity of the Organization to support those efforts.

5. Close collaboration with UNDCP is maintained throughout project development, implementation and follow-up, as well as in discussions aimed at identifying ways in which UNIDO might assist in translating relevant objectives of the Global Programme of Action into practical action. The latter is exemplified by the active involvement of UNIDO in all meetings of the Sub-Committee on Coordination of International Drug Abuse Control of the Administrative Committee on Coordination/Consultative Committee for Programme and Operational Questions. In line with General Assembly resolution 47/100, paragraph 2, the proposed agency-specific implementation plan for UNIDO was submitted to UNDCP in 1993 and is attached as an annex to the present document.

II. CURRENT OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

6. Agro-industrial development of alternative products is the subject of an important ongoing UNIDO project in cooperation with UNDCP. Launched in mid-1993 in the Chapare area of Bolivia, the project is conducting a diagnostic survey to identify and transfer small-scale inefficient factories for tea, essential oils, animal feed, glucose and vinegar into a competitive and integrated agro-industrial complex through the following activities:

(a) Market assessment and improvement of marketing techniques;

(b) Techno-economic assistance, including restructuring and rehabilitation plans;

(c) On-the-job managerial technical assistance and training;

(d) Improvement of agricultural productivity by introducing sound agricultural techniques and providing incentives to boost productivity and to expand cultivated areas as required.

Scheduled for completion in 1994, the project is expected to be followed up with smaller projects for the individual activity groups.

7. In the same region, a recently approved project to rehabilitate an existing dairy will result in upgrading the quality and increasing the quantity of cheese production. Major considerations in project design were clean technologies, waste management, environment conservation and involvement of women. Support is also provided by UNIDO to projects implemented by other executing agencies, as in the fielding of an agro-industrial expert to a UNDCP project in Bolivia, also in the Chapare region, for the commercialization of agro-industrial products. The introduction of high-value, low-volume products through these projects will encourage local farmers to cultivate substitute crops.

8. A number of projects with different objectives may also offer potential benefits for drug control. A project financed from the United Nations Development Programme indicative planning figure for Thailand that focuses on quality aspects in the pharmaceutical industry may have potential for supporting drug control efforts. UNIDO expertise provided under the project to the Pharmaceutical Technology Service Centre in Bangkok may strengthen the capability of its staff to control the content and quality of pharmaceuticals containing psychotropic substances. 1/ In the United Republic of Tanzania, the UNIDO project to enhance the technological capabilities of the Pemba distillery for essential oils by organic farming methods is aimed at the development of high-value crops. Such crops could represent alternatives to growers of narcotic plants.

9. Under a special-purpose contribution to the Industrial Development Fund (IDF) combined with funds from the Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation, a three-week training programme on the small-scale industrial utilization of medicinal and aromatic plants was conducted at the Medicinal Plants Research Centre in Turkey for participants from 12 developing countries, in September 1993. The course covered agro-industrial aspects from cultivation and processing of medicinal and aromatic plants to the finished products so as to enable participants to initiate alternative development activities. Participants were also trained in detection and estimation of narcotics and psychotropic substances, thus enhancing their ability to assist law enforcement bodies in drug detection and estimation. Another training project, designed to benefit women in the United Republic of Tanzania, is financed by a special-purpose contribution to IDF from Austria. To be conducted in illicit crop growing areas, the course aims at motivating women to undertake alternative crops for conversion to value added products on the basis of training in food processing and entrepreneurship.

III. ACTION REQUIRED OF THE BOARD

10. The Board may wish to take note of the information contained in the present report.

1/ IDB.11/10, chap. V, para. 43.

Annex

SYSTEM-WIDE ACTION PLAN ON DRUG ABUSE CONTROL:
AGENCY-SPECIFIC IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR 1994

Agency: United Nations Industrial Development Organization

A. TREATMENT, REHABILITATION AND SOCIAL REINTEGRATION

Policy/strategy

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) aims to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS among addicts through production of disposable syringes and other medical supplies in developing countries.

Action planned

Technical cooperation projects will be developed to establish or increase production of disposable syringes and relevant medical supplies.

B. SUPPLY REDUCTION

Policy/strategy

Within the mandate of UNIDO, assistance will be extended to States in the promotion and implementation of the relevant sectors of the Global Programme of Action. This will involve programmes aimed at supply reduction by alternative development through crop substitution projects resulting in effective agro-based industries and value added products.

Action planned

(i) Research

Cost-benefit studies on the industrial use of crops that could be used as substitutes will be carried out on experimental plots in India and the United Republic of Tanzania.

(ii) Training

Seminars and training programmes will be conducted in illicit growing areas to motivate women on entrepreneurship and the possibilities of small-scale processing of food, spices, and aromatic and medicinal plants.

(iii) Institution building and strengthening

Support will be given to an alternative development programme in Bolivia through industrial utilization of food, and medicinal and aromatic plants. The activities of the UNDCP-funded project on agro-industrial development in the Chapare region will be continued.

Technology transfer or improvement to convert excess stocks of opium in India into licit drugs (such as codeine or ethylmorphine) will be initiated in collaboration with UNDCP.

A project proposal will be presented to the Government of Pakistan aimed at involving local and foreign investors who have access to markets of high value added agro-industrial products so that crops involving labour-intensive cultivation could be introduced to developing countries to substitute for illicit crops. This concept will enable producers to have a ready access to markets guaranteed by the investors.

Projects will be developed on industrial utilization of medicinal and aromatic plants in areas that are in close proximity to illicit crop growing areas to diminish the spread of illicit cultiviation and halt the migration of people to illicit crop growing areas.

C. MULTISECTORAL ACTIVITIES

Policy/strategy

In order to support national laboratories responsible for analysis of both licit and illicit drugs, there is a need to train technical personnel in detecting the presence and identifying the degree of purity of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

Action planned

(i) Training

A group training course for participants from developing countries will be organized to impart the analysis capability required to assist national regulatory bodies in identifying the degree of purity of both licit and illicit drugs.

(ii) Institution building and strengthening

The analytical facilities of national control laboratories will be enhanced to permit the detection of illicit imitation products containing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. In that connection, local production of chemical reagents needed for such analysis will be encouraged in developing countries.